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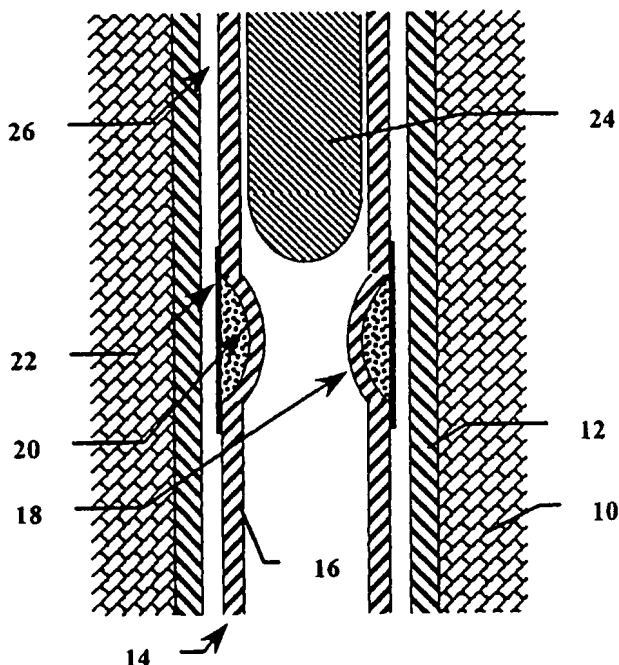
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR EXPANSION SEALING CONCENTRIC TUBULAR STRUCTURES



(57) Abstract: An apparatus and method for the seal-
ing of a first tubular member (16) in a fixed position
with respect to a second concentric tubular member
(12). The inner tubular member (16) is formed with
a shallow annular depression (18) in the tube wall
at the point of sealant placement, which causes the wall
of the inner tubular member to intrude into the other-
wise cylindrical passage within the tube. On the outer
surface of the first tubular member the depression is
filled with a partially compressible fluid (20). The an-
nular depression and the partially compressible fluid
are then covered over by a malleable/ductile sleeve
(22). Activation of the seal involves directing a cylin-
drical displacement device (24) through the inside of
the inner tubular member and past the annular intru-
sion such that the wall is straightened. The partially
compressible fluid and cover are forced outward into
sealing engagement with the outer tubular member.

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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT																				
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.																		
X	US 5,048,605 A (TOON et al.) 17 September 1991 (17-09-1991), see entire document.	10																		
A	US 6,102,407 A (MORIYA et al) 15 August 2000 (15-08-2000), see entire document.	1-20																		
A	US 6,041,858 A (ARIZMENDI) 28 March 2000 (28-03-2000), see entire document.	1-20																		
A	US 4,651,818 A (JOHNSON et al.) 24 March 1987 (24-03-1987), see entire document.	1-20																		
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.																				
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